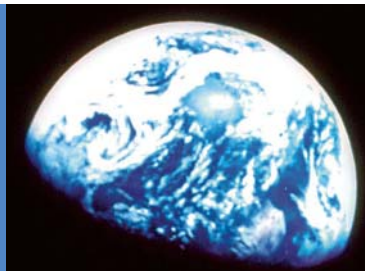


Earth Heroes at School



King County

Department of
Natural Resources and Parks
Solid Waste Division

Past Winners

Past Earth Hero at School Award Winners—What They're Up to Now

Over the years, many of those recognized as Earth Heroes at School have continued their commitment to teaching about and protecting the environment. Some of these ongoing efforts are described below.

2001

Bill Hayden – Snoqualmie Elementary

Several times a year, Bill Hayden takes his fifth graders along the Kimball Creek Wetlands Trail, where they team up with kindergartners to learn about the wetlands and understand we all share the environment. Hayden also spearheaded the reconstruction of a bridge on the trail, which had been damaged by floods, and recently teamed up with a Girl Scout Troop to clear debris and mitigate English ivy growth.

Maggie Wheatley- Skykomish Elementary

For more than ten years, Maggie Wheatley has involved her students in tree planting, composting, using recycled materials, and adopting a road for litter clean-ups. This year she and her students have adopted an additional four miles of Forest Service road, started a worm bin for composting classroom food waste, and will soon start a community pea-patch in their town. Wheatley hopes to secure a section of the pea-patch for her students to maintain. She also plans to get high school students involved in establishing a green house to grow starts for the pea-patch.

2002

Cathy Buck - Tolt Middle School

Since creating a native plant garden with her students and community members, Cathy Buck has continued to combine scientific study in the classroom with hands-on project work to teach her students an appreciation for the environment. This year in addition to maintaining their native plant garden, Buck's students planted 700 trees near the Snoqualmie River in Duvall to restore salmon habitat.

2003

Roberta McFarland - Waskowitz Outdoor School

With six worm bins built by high school students and an Earth Tub provided by King County, Roberta McFarland helps ensure that the school's compostable food waste is kept out of the landfill. The 4,000 students attending the outdoor school each year participate in a Worm Class and reflect on ways they can bring home the practices they learn. For its constantly changing student population representing multiple languages, the school has used photos and other visual cues to educate students about which materials are recyclable.

2004

Judit Molnar-Logan - White Center Heights Elementary

Judit Molnar-Logan and her students have made an amazing difference through their Restoration and Stewardship Program at Hicks Lake: the Great Blue Heron returned after a fourteen-year absence! It should come as no surprise that they were recognized by the Cascade Land Conservancy. Molnar-Logan is still passionate about involving her students in making a difference in their community through actions such as planting trees at White Center Heights Pond and reducing waste and recycling at their own school.

Mike Ritscher- Holy Rosary

Mike Ritscher continues to cultivate an organic garden with his eighth-grade science class. He feels this gives city students first-hand experience to learn about compost and raising crops. They celebrate their harvest by enjoying a delicious salad and then donate part of their produce to a local soup kitchen. What a tasty way to experience the importance of preserving and protecting our natural environment!

2005

Tasha Kirby - Discovery Elementary

Having established a Green Team and a very successful recycling program within the school, Tasha Kirby and her students installed recycle bins outside at the playing fields and school entrance to encourage community members to also recycle. Students monitor the use of the bins to ensure contamination does not occur.

Mike Town – Redmond High School

Mike Town joined forces with Puget Sound Clean Air Agency to develop a Cool School Challenge that helps schools reduce their carbon footprint. Redmond High School already reports 72 tons in CO2 reductions. This is a fantastic way for students to really see the difference they can make in the environment just by making small adjustments in their daily activities.

More listings on back >>>

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to the environment!



2006

Marie Hartford – Henry David Thoreau Elementary

Marie Hartford received a Green Team mini-grant in 2007 to set up worm bins for lunchroom composting. Most recently, she has been spearheading a project to re-landscape the school grounds with native plants, using the help of junior high students to guide 60 elementary students to plant 150 native ground covers, shrubs and trees. The students are harvesting the compost tea and soil from the worm bins and applying them to the garden. The school is also adapting the Redmond High School Kids for Climate Protection program for elementary students. Sixth-graders have done an energy audit for all classrooms which have a goal of reducing their carbon footprint by 2000 pounds each year. Thoreau has a strong commitment to sustainability and is setting a wonderful, practical example in its very own school.

Kay Moilanen – Hazelwood Elementary

Students at Hazelwood continue to learn all about native plants through their own garden. Many fun hours are spent pulling weeds and planting under Moilanen's enthusiastic supervision. Fifth-graders have developed creative methods, such as Habitat Bingo and Native Plant Treasure Hunt, to educate the younger students about schoolyard habitat. Other classes are also learning about noxious weeds, such as ivy and Scotch broom. Through these activities, Moilanen is ensuring that all students value the environment.

2006 and 2001

Selim Uzuner – Tolt Middle School

The recycling and conservation programs are still continuing at Tolt Middle School. Having paved the way within the Riverview School District, Uzuner, a two-time Earth Hero winner, is reaching out to help a neighboring school with its recycling program.



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King County Solid Waste Division

206-296-4466, 1-800-325-6165, ext. 6-4466

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2007

Jackie Bradley / Sarah Willis – Seattle Country Day School

Under the leadership of Jackie Bradley and Sarah Willis, Seattle Country Day School students continue their stewardship of three Seattle parks on Queen Anne. In addition to doing clean-up and mulching tasks, they are creating a tradition of planting a tree each year. The school, under the leadership of the third-grade team, is also now composting food waste in the lunchroom, and the middle school students have formed a recycling team, which meets at lunch to share ideas and implement plans to encourage more recycling.

Ted Cox – Bellevue High School

The Earthbound Club at Bellevue High, led by advisor, Ted Cox, is still very active. Annual events, such as Global Warming Night, have helped to raise environmental awareness in the community. Within the school, Cox and others are working hard to replace Styrofoam trays and plastic utensils in the cafeteria with compostable items. They are working in coordination with the City of Bellevue and the school district.

John Schmied – Skyview Junior High

John Schmied continues to involve his students in encouraging the establishment of more opportunities to recycle fluorescent light bulbs. He also has been a leader in helping Skyview become a King County Green School, organized students to build the Skyview Environmental Trail, worked at many levels on the Brightwater wastewater treatment project, and is a community environmental leader. He was recently named Environmentalist of the Year by the East Lake Washington Audubon Society.

Ben Wheeler – Explorer West Middle School

Ben Wheeler and his students carry on their commitment to the environment through Explorer West's sustainability initiative, which has been fully integrated into the curriculum. Activities include a student-led audit for trash, recycling, water, energy and transportation and actions toward reducing resource use. There is also a native garden on site and research is just beginning into campus solar and wind power options.

2007 and 2003

Maggie Windus – Juanita Elementary

A two-time winner of an Earth Hero Award, Maggie continues to inspire students at Juanita Elementary. The recycling program Maggie initiated has become part of the school's culture and students are practiced stewards, helping to educate and support each other in proper reuse, waste reduction and recycling actions. They constantly look for new ways to efficiently manage their resources.

